



University of Hawaii at Manoa

Environmental Center
Crawford 317 • 2550 Campus Road
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822
Telephone (808) 948-7361

Office of the Director

RL:0466

HB 3026-82, HD 1 RELATING TO WATER

Statement for
House Committee on Finance
Public Hearing - 11 March 1982

By
Doak C. Cox, Environmental Center
L.S. Lau, Water Resources Research Center

HB 3026, HD 1, would establish an Advisory Study Committee on Water Resources to formulate a State Water Code. This statement on the bill has been submitted for review to the Legislative Subcommittee of the Environmental Center of the University of Hawaii, but does not reflect an institutional position of the University.

One of the recommendations made by the State Water Commission in 1979 was that an appropriate state agency be commissioned "to formulate for legislative adoption a state water code including a system of water rights having certain desirable characteristics..." that the Commission outlined. A draft bill to accomplish the purpose was submitted as an appendix to the Commission's report.

It is curious that no reference to the Commission's recommendation is made in HB 3025, HD 1 because the effect of the bill, if passed, will be essentially in accord with the recommendation except that it will be a committee appointed from the two houses of the legislature that would be commissioned for the purpose of formulating the code rather than one of the State agencies.

The major disadvantage of the approach to the need in HB 3026, HD 1, will be in the possible discontinuity in the membership of the committee, whose members would be appointed for the same terms of office to which they are elected. As in the draft bill submitted by the State Water Commission, the report of the body formulating the water code would be required to report to third regular legislative session following the effective date of the Act establishing the body whereas Representatives are elected for terms of two years.

It may be of interest to note that the State Water Commission considered in 1979 that an appropriation of \$300,000 would be necessary for the body to perform its work.